

## Meet the GreenBest of this year's GreenFest

MICHAEL NAUGHTON/METRO

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Through its design, hostelling is more environmentally friendly.

But Hostelling International Boston has taken green living even further and next spring will open in a new location that it plans to have LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

That's why HI-Boston is the Metro Boston GreenBest 2011 Award winner.

"We work hard to operate a hostel in a responsible way to minimize travelers' footprints," said Deborah Ruhe, executive director of HI-New England.

At its 205-bed hostel on Hemenway Street, the organization has implemented recycling programs, installed low-flow shower heads and displayed posters to educate visitors about living green during their stay.

Some of those methods will carry over to the non-profit's new, 468-bed building on Stuart Street. That building is being renovated and will accommodate 40,000 travelers each year.

The new location will also feature a green elevator that recaptures energy as it moves, energy-efficient washing machines and large windows to maximize daylight and reduce electricity use.



The education component will also continue with green logos highlighting and explaining the sustainable design and features so travelers can take that knowledge with them after their stay, Ruhe said.

"Our vision is that hostelers become caring world citizens ... who are stewards of the Earth," Ruhe said.



NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Bob Sylvia, Director of Hostel Operations, shows off one of the Hostel International location on Hemenway Street's recycling centers.